

HRC NEWS & VIEWS

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I'VE LEARNED:

- **That** the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- **That** when you're in love, it shows.
- **That** if just one person says to me, "You've made my day!", it makes my day.
- **That** having a child fall asleep in my arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- **That** being kind is more important than being right.
- **That** you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- **That** no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to be goofy with.
- **That** life is like a roll of toilet paper, the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- **That** it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- **That** under everyone's hard shell, is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- **That** when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- **That** love, not time, heals all wounds.
- **That** everyone you meet, deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- **That** life is tough, but I'm tougher.
- **That** opportunities are never lost, someone will take the ones you miss.
- **That** when you harbor bitterness, happiness will work elsewhere.
- **That** a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- **That** everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
- **That** the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Author Anonymous

The News & Views Editorial Board wishes you Peace and Joy this Holiday Season and a New Year of Health, Happiness and Prosperity.



ANOTHER YEAR BY MARJ COLBURN

Wow, it's amazing to me how fast a year goes by any more. Last year at this time, we were gearing up for the Joint Commission Survey, and now that seems like a million years ago!

We've had a lot of interesting things to address this year, most notably the changes in Medicaid regulations that affected the HRC census. Staff were able to use this time for training, assisting with youth and family transportation, and cleaning up and repairing the units. At this point, the census is back on the rise and we continue to provide quality substance abuse treatment for the youth.

Bridges was notified that their plans to build new homes for their clients will move forward. Land has been selected to the south of HRC for development of the homes. There is an estimated completion date somewhere between next fall and the first of 2013 for that project.

This year we added Recreation Specialists and a Compliance Specialist to our staff. All of these positions have been of benefit to the program and the youth. The youth are always interested in recreation, and having two staff dedicated to working with the youth in recreation has been great. Our Compliance Specialist has worked to evaluate processes in the program and has developed new processes to reduce risks

to the facility.

After 30 years, our Dietitian resigned and we hired a new person to manage the Kitchen. There have been some new and different ideas and approaches offered by the Kitchen staff. Change can create a ripple effect.

All of the Youth Security Supervisors were trained in MRT during the summer. They all decided on a specialty in the program to focus on as well – be it documentation, the MRT training, or other topics vital to the success of the youth and the program.

We saw the closure of some departments as well. Business Office functions were transferred to Lincoln, and Staff Development staff were reassigned to other positions within the system. Some HRC staff have picked up a few pieces from these departments to keep things running smoothly here on campus.

What does 2012 hold? Gosh, I wish I had a crystal ball and could answer that question (of course, if I had that crystal ball I would be winning the lottery every week and not writing this article!).

We are just going to keep moving forward, doing what we are doing; managing the youth we have managed since 1999. I'm sure there will be other distractions from our mission as we move into the New Year.

The Legislature will again be in session, HRC will be asked for information about the program and youth, and we will all be wondering "what's up?" One of the things I am hearing from Managers in Building #3 is how cohesive and how cooperative work has become lately – probably due to the many challenges of the youth being served right now. We need to keep working together as a team, meeting the needs of the youth, and not allow ourselves to get excited about whatever rumors start popping up about HRC.

Staff do a great job with the youth, managing the ups and downs of each day. In 2012, we are going to continue to do the same. I appreciate each and every staff person who comes to work day after day, giving their all to make things happen for the youth. You are the ones who make the program successful. You are the ones with your heads in the game, taking care of safety and security in each situation that arises.

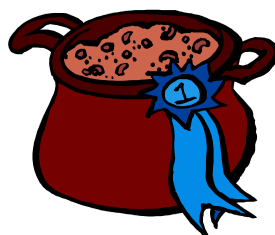
I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season. We hope for the best in 2012 and will take on any challenges we face as the great team we are.



IT'S ABOUT BRAGGING RIGHTS BY SHERRY BLOCK

The snow is flying and the weather man scares us with wind chill predictions. Yes, it's time for the annual HRC CHILI CONTEST! On Tuesday, December 20th, everyone will have opportunity to taste 8 unique varieties of chili and vote for their favorites. The entrants are Marj Colburn, the Housekeepers, Corinne Jensen, Heather Sidders and the Youth Se-

curity Supervisors, Pre-vocational Center youth and staff, Mr. Parker, Nutrition Services staff, and Dr. Judson. Marj's famous "reindeer got run over by grandma chili" will have some serious challenges in the con-



Who will be the winner in 2011?

test for the coveted golden ladle. Past contests have involved campaigning, bribes, and even reminders about who signs discharge orders. We'll certainly have none of that this year, right?!! Join us for chili and cinnamon rolls and may the BEST CHILI WIN!

MAINTENANCE NEWS BY CHERI DELAY

Maintenance staff continue to keep "rolling along" with all the expected and unexpected work orders that are submitted to keep our buildings in good condition. The camera project was completed in the Chapel with hook up and adjustments made involving several HRC staff. The repairs on the south well have also been completed. We are still waiting for the repair of the kitchen elevator. Maintenance staff continue to ensure the buildings are safe environments for the youth in our program and the staff who work in them. Bags of salt have been placed by the main exits to the buildings in anticipation of winter weather that has arrived.

HOUSEKEEPING NEWS BY MARY ANN KOCH

This past month we have identified some offices that need some tender loving care. Now would be a good time to remind office staff that if they are going to be on vacation, it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know. If we have the staff we can get in and get your office spiffed up. The first of the year or before we will begin on these projects.

I would like to thank the housekeepers for stepping up in my ab-

DEGREES OBTAINED submitted by Kris Sorensen

Congratulations to Kelsey Johnson, Nebraska Youth Academy Teacher, who will be completing her Masters Degree this month. She will be earning a Master of Education in Administration.

Kris Sorensen, will also be finishing her Masters as well. She will receive her Master of Education as a Reading Specialist.

Kelsey and Kris are receiving their degrees from Concordia University and will finish their classes on December 16.

Congratulations to you both on this accomplishment!

sence, I know that it was tuff to get everything covered. You are a great bunch!

Korena Hoshaw has a new granddaughter and Carmen Novak is also expecting a grandchild soon! The two Granny's are pretty excited.

We wish you all a VERY, MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM THE KITCHEN BY MINDY BLAIR

Tis' the season for shopping, delicious holiday meals, and time with friends and family. The kitchen has been very busy getting ready for the holiday season. We will be entering the Chili Cook-off on December 20th and baking yummy cinnamon rolls to go along with all the different kinds of chili. Best of luck to all entries!

With the help of Sherry and her crew, we will serve a Holiday Breakfast for the youth on December 22nd.

Please welcome Marsha Utecht back and wish her a Happy Birthday on December 9th. We are happy that she is back and glad that she can join in on the holiday festivities.

Days of December.....

Hi, Neighbor Month
National Stress Free Family
Holiday Month
Read A New Book Month
Universal Human Rights Month
12/1 Eat A Red Apple Day
National Pie Day
12/4 Santa's List Day – we hope
you are on the "Nice" list
12/7 Pearl Harbor Day
12/8 National Brownie Day
12/10 Human Rights Day
12/12 Poinsettia Day
12/13 National Cocoa Day
HRC Employee Holiday Party
HRC Holiday Footwear Day
12/15 Bill of Rights Day
12/16 Chocolate Covered
Anything Day
12/17 Underdog Day
12/18 Wear A Plunger On Your
Head Day
12/20 Go Caroling Day
12/21 Humbug Day
Look at the Bright Side Day
12/22 First Day of Winter
12/24 National Egg Nog Day
12/25 Christmas Day
12/26 National Whiners Day
Kwanzaa Begins
12/27 National Fruitcake Day
12/28 National Chocolate Day
12/31 New Year's Eve

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope everyone is happy and healthy!



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

BY SHERRY BLOCK

Nebraska Youth Academy classes will not be in session from December 20th through January 2nd. During the holiday break staff will be busy helping with many activities. The youth will be served a special breakfast on the 22nd, see "Flying Monsters" at the IMAX, meet K-9s and Friends on the 27th, and tour the antique cars at Jackson's Car Corner on the 28th. Everyone is invited to hear a presentation by Ricky Simmons on the 21st. He is a former NU football player who struggled with addictions and is now a CADAC in Lincoln. The youth will send greeting cards to family and friends, make deer jerky and dip pretzels, play Minute To Win It games, and participate in tournaments and recreation activities. We appreciate all our staff who make the holidays a little more enjoyable for youth who aren't able to be with their families during this special time of year.



Yule logs! Hackberry firewood, smaller branches to large pieces to split, prices from \$5 to \$10, pick up from ambulance drive gate, call PVC 3433 or Sherry 3260.



For the youth's Christmas stockings: Individually wrapped candies, chips, peanuts, snack mixes, granola bars, ramen noodles, and small candy canes. Please call 3260 or bring to Sherry's office.

PROUD GRANDMA



My new granddaughter celebrated her first Thanksgiving with us. Her name is Mya Elizabeth Sorensen, she was born October 20, 2011. She was welcomed into the world by her parents, Seth and Becky Sorensen, big brothers Chase and Ryder, big sister Nevaeha, and grandparents Gary and Kris Sorensen and Aunt Kyra of Fairfield and Marlin and Patty Bates of Juniata.

Kristin Sorensen, Teacher

DECORATING TIME

BY JEAN LUTHER

Let the Christmas decorating begin! We can make the building and the units look great but we do have to follow some guidelines to comply with Life Safety and fire codes. We can be creative and still fall within regulations. Following are the guidelines.

- *Decorative materials in corridors must not cover more than 20% of the wall surface.
- *Client doors can cover a 20 inch by 20 inch area
- *Do not obstruct exit signs, fire alarms, detectors or sprinkler heads
- *Decorations cannot obstruct an exit or path of egress
- *Decorations must not extend more than 6 inches from wall into the corridor
- *All trees must come from the original box declaring it fire retardant
- *Only UL listed light sets can be used and only in non-client care areas. These lights must be turned off at the end of the day.

Happy decorating!

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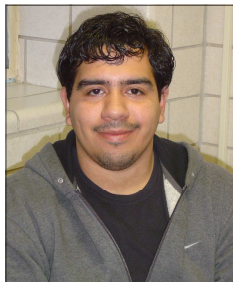
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NEW EMPLOYEES

by Beth Bartell



Jessie Light will work in HJCDP on the afternoon shift as a Youth Security Specialist II. Jess recently graduated from Wesleyan University in Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.



Dan Moreno joined HRC on December 12 as a Youth Security Specialist II.

Please join us in welcoming Jessie and Dan to HRC!